A8275-2 3/25/83

TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

Office of Information
and Public Affairs
1920 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036
(202) 835-9555

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 24, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 19 totaled an estimated 15.4 billion ton-miles, 5.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 166.3 billion ton-miles, 4.8 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 19 totaled 357,093 cars, 9.0 percent below 1982, but 0.3 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 12.9 percent in the East, 9.4 percent in the South and 6.2 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, loadings of lumber and wood products increased by 20.1 percent and motor vehicles and equipment posted a 5.7 percent gain. Thirteen of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 12 totaled 42,080 cars, up 12.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1982 and 72,146 trailers and/or containers, 12.1 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 10 weeks of the year was 411,761 cars, 15.5 percent higher than last year, and 703,440 trailers and/or containers, up 11.6 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/19/83:

	Loadings in Week ended March 19, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	26,368	I	702	2.7	D	866	3.2
Other farm products	3,418	D	28	0.8	I	427	14.3
Metallic ores	12,038	D	8,249	40.7	I	937	8.4
Coal	99,293	D	21,551	17.8	D	265	0.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	8,397	D	1,521	15.3	I	297	3.7
Nonmetallic minerals	11,926	D	218	1.8	I	1,105	10.2
Grain mill products	11,533	D	1,297	10.1	D	397	3.3
Food and kindred products	12,204	D	1,633	11.8	I	5	0.0
Primary forest products	14,922	D	2,289	13.3	I	133	0.9
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,319	I	1,223	20.1	I	250	3.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,441	D	1,855	10.7	I	306	2.0
Chemicals and allied products	23,586	I	185	0.8	D	1,405	5.6
Petroleum products	4,511	I	17	0.4	D	137	2.9
Stone, clay and glass products	9,593	D	430	4.3	I	142	1.5
Coke	4,875	D	207	4.1	D	72	1.5
Metals and products	8,967	D	2,075	18.8	I	48	0.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,714	I	905	5.7	I	284	1.7
Waste and scrap materials	8,485	D	800	8.6	I	17	0.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,817	D	400	4.3	D	233	2.6
All other carloads	48,431	I	5,303	12.3	I	417	0.9
LCL traffic	255	D	1,222	82.7	D	6	2.3
Total Cars Loaded	357,093	D	35,440	9.0	I	987	0.3
Corresponding week of 1982	392,533						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	3,809,218	4,166,279	D 8.6
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 weeks ended March 12	150.9	158.3	D 4.7
Week ended March 19	15.4	16.3	D 5.6
11 weeks cumulative	166.3	174.6	D 4.8

AARt-032483